

Edward F. Malagodi (1935–1996)

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Ed Malagodi passed away in his home on September 24, 1996. He had been homebound for several months, suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that required constant access to supplemental oxygen. He also had a history of heart problems, having experienced his first major heart attack in 1974. For these reasons, Ed was unable to attend conventions and meetings, and many behavior analysts knew him only through his published works. I hope to enrich that knowledge with this remembrance of Ed who was my cherished friend and colleague for nearly 30 years.

At the time of his death, Ed was contemplating retirement with decidedly mixed feelings. On the one hand, the inevitable reduction in the stress of daily life would better serve his failing health. On the other, life without contact with students and colleagues was not pleasant to contemplate. He and I had begun a pattern of near-daily conversations, mostly about politics, but we frequently focused on the history of the Behavior Analysis Program at the University of Florida. We had agreed that we should pull together a document detailing that history, and we had begun discussing its contents in considerable detail. These conversations gave us both a great deal of pleasure and, as it turns out, provided me with invaluable material for the task at hand.

Ed was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on January 16, 1935. He attended public and parochial schools in Brockton, but the family moved to Miami and Ed graduated from Miami Edison High School in 1953. He entered

the University of Florida, hoping to earn a baseball scholarship (he was a pitcher), but he broke his arm and withdrew after his freshman year. He then enlisted in the Air Force, from which he was honorably discharged in 1957. Ed resumed his education at the University of Miami, finally earning a PhD from that institution in 1966.

Ed took his first professional position in 1967 when he became a research associate at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Coral Gables. There he collaborated with such early behavior analysts as Jack Sandler, Rob Davidson, and Mal Kushner. I recruited Ed in the fall of 1967, and he joined the faculty of the University of Florida in September 1968.

Ed would probably have described his role in the history of the Behavior Analysis Program at the University of Florida as that of cofounder. In fact, he was in most respects the founder. My intention in 1967 was to strengthen the experimental psychology program with some competence in operant conditioning, and Ed certainly met that qualification. As time passed, he attracted more students and expanded his course offerings to cover a full range of theoretical issues, verbal behavior, and eventually cultural analysis in collaboration with Marvin Harris. Ed and I began offering a joint weekly seminar, and, by 1972, a new programmatic area was clearly emerging. The Experimental and Applied Behavior Analysis division was formally created in 1972, with Ed as its director. In the years that followed, Marc Branch, Brian Iwata, and Tim Hackenberg joined us.

Throughout its history, the program has been a faithful reflection of Ed's firm conviction that the only difference between basic and applied behavior

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analysis is the setting in which inquiry is conducted. This philosophy has been the distinguishing feature of our training and is reflected in the prominence attained by our graduates. Without exception, these individuals bear the stamp of Ed's insistence on methodological rigor and his profound concern for the welfare of the species and the survival of our culture. Ed leaves an enormous responsibility to those of us privileged to have been his colleagues; we must maintain these standards even as he would have.

Not long after Ed returned to Miami

from his recruiting visit, I called him to offer him the position. We chatted a bit, and he said he would get back to me in a few days. When he called back and announced his decision to join us, I was delighted. I asked him if he had any regrets, and he replied that the group at the Miami VA had expressed amazement that he would come to the University of Florida. "There's nobody there!" they said.

"Wrong," Ed replied. "I'll be there!"

As long as there is behavior analysis at the University of Florida, Ed will be there.